

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SOFIA 01093 081512Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05 OES-07

OMB-01 /065 W

-----115677 091216Z /53

R 081320Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO US CUSTOMS SERVICE WASH DC

SECSTATE WASHDC 4704

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1093

CUSTOMS FOR IOD/POTTER

STATE FOR S/NM AND EUR/EE

VIENNA FOR WALTZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BU, US, XH

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN TRAINING PROGRAM

1. FOR CUSTOMS: BULGARIAN CUSTOMS HAVE REQUESTED THAT MR. POTTER, MR. ALLSHOUSE AND/OR MR. FRED BOYETT, REGIONAL COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS FOR NEW YORK, ATTEND CLOSING OF 1978 TRAINING COURSE AT VARNA. VISITORS WOULD NEED TO BE IN VARNA AT LAST JUNE 20-21. EMBASSY BELIEVES SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE USEFUL AS GESTURE AND WOULD PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SEPTEMBER INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS CONFERENCE IN BULGARIA.

2. FOR STATE AND CUSTOMS: BULGARIAN CUSTOMS HAVE ALSO PROPOSED INCLUSION IN FUTURE SUCH BILATERAL TRAINING PROGRAMS OF A FEW CUSTOMS OFFICERS FROM OTHER EE COUNTRIES, SUCH AS ROMANIA AND HUNGARY. EMBASSY AND IOD/BARBAGELATA, PRESENTLY IN BULGARIA, SEE DEFINITE ADVANTAGES IN AGREEING

TO BULGARIAN PROPOSAL. AT PRESENT, CUSTOMS HAS NO PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WITH ANY OTHER EE COUNTRY EVEN CLOSE TO LEVEL OR SCOPE OF US/BULGARIAN PROGRAM. OTHER EE PARTICIPATION IN BULGARIAN PROGRAM PROVIDES EXPOSURE AND CONTACTS FOR EXPANSION OF CUSTOMS AND EMBASSY PROGRAMS IN THOSE COUNTRIES, WITHOUT REQUIRING US CUSTOMS OR EMBASSY PROPOSALS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES. IDEALLY, PERHAPS, OTHER EE PARTICIPANTS IN BULGARIAN/US TRAINING COURSE MIGHT COME TO REQUEST SIMILAR NARCOTICS TRAINING FOR THEIR CUSTOMS SERVICES, OF THEIR OWN ACCORD. BULGARIA'S TAKING THE LEAD IN PART REMOVES SOME OF THE POSSIBLE POLITICAL MISGIVINGS OTHER EE COUNTRIES MIGHT HAVE ABOUT SUCH COOPERATION. COOPERATION OF THE SORT NOW EXISTING BETWEEN US AND BULGARIA IN CUSTOMS FIELD HAS GENERAL ADVANTAGES BOTH IN TERMS OF MORE EFFECTIVE INTERDICTION OF NARCOTICS TRAFFIC AND IN TERMS OF OVERALL BILATERAL US RELATIONS WITH HOST COUNTRY.

3. DRAWBACKS WE PERCEIVE IN AGREEING TO OTHER EE PARTICIPATION IN US/BULGARIAN COURSES IN FUTURE ARE NOT MAJOR. INTERPRETATION AND OTHER LOGISTICS BECOME MORE COMPLICATED, BUT BURDEN OF THAT FALLS ON BULGARIANS FOR MOST PART. ONLY POLITICAL DRAWBACK IS FACT THAT PRESTIGE OF BULGARIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE WOULD BE SLIGHTLY ENHANCED BY LEADING ROLE THAT IT WOULD PLAY IN THIS REGARD AMONG EE CUSTOMS SERVICES, A FACTOR TO BE CONSIDERED IN OVERALL

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US/EE RELATIONS.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES IN BALANCE THAT ADVANTAGES OUTWEIGH DRAWBACKS AND THAT WE SHOULD AGREE TO BULGARIAN PROPOSAL. REQUEST PERMISSION TO SO INFORM BULGARIAN CUSTOMS.

GARTHOFF

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NNN

Message Attributes

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